

Civic Center Renovations

On September 6, 2011 contractors descended on the Asheville Civic Center to begin major renovations in preparation of the 2012 Southern Conference Basketball tournament. The scope of the renovations will have benefits not only for the sporting events but also for all of the music acts, trade shows and various other events hosted by the Civic Center.

The areas of renovation include the locker rooms, the concourse concession areas, the concourse itself, arena floor concessions, arena level seating, the banquet hall and developing unused space under the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium for meeting and pre-function space. There is also going to be a new elevator to carry patrons to the Banquet Hall, the Concourse and the Arena.

The Banquet Hall, renovations include a state of the art, energy efficient HVAC unit. This area will have a definitive pre-function area, a meeting area with updated audio-visual capabilities and a much more modern and appealing feel to it. It will be a more attractive offering to folks wanting to have any kind of social or business gathering in the downtown area.

The arena seating was a major focus for the Southern Conference Tournament and it is being addressed accordingly. All new seating risers will be installed on the North, South and West side of the arena and new, more comfortable chairs will be on those risers.

The arena will be brighter and more inviting with fresh paint. Also included is the addition of a state-of-the-art sound reinforcement system, new scoreboards and video boards and the addition of acoustical treatments to help soften the noise levels during musical and sporting events.

The locker rooms are being renovated with all new lockers and shower facilities, HVAC units and new paint and carpet. Also, included in the renovation, is the addition of two official's locker rooms and a training room. One of the larger locker rooms was divided to make efficient use of the space.

The "Museum" area under the Thomas Wolf Auditorium has been used as storage space over the last several years. With a need for more meeting space and improved concessions that area has been completely repurposed. Now there will be a larger concessions counter with more points of sale. There will be a larger pre-function area, two large meeting rooms, office space and storage.

Included in the need for improved concessions was a redesign of two concession stands on the concourse level. Both will include cooking stations and additional points of sale. Also, one of those stands will be repurposed to showcase some of the finest local brewers from our community, recently being named "Beer City USA" for the second consecutive year. The concourse is also being repainted and up-fitted with improved life safety features.

In a few short months we will be putting the finishing touches on this fine facility and unveiling the new and improved Civic Center. The efforts put forth by the staff, the design team and the local contractors will be self evident the first time you visit the new and improved Civic Center.